

November 27, 2022

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude

Greeting/Life of the Church

Pastor Andy Wagner

Introit

Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship

L: The days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and righteousness will appear.

P: God's promises will be made known to us, and we will declare God's goodness and salvation.

L: Lift up your souls in trust and praise; open your hearts and minds to God's teaching.

P: God's ways will be demonstrated to us, and we will seek to walk in them all our days.

L: Render thanksgiving to God for all life's benefits. Watch and pray, in holiness and abiding faith.

A: God's mercy and steadfast love will surround us, and we will abound in love for one another.

**Opening Prayer (unison)

In obedience and trust, we approach you, God of the covenant. Day by day, your promises are fulfilled among us. Our redemption is drawing near. Help us to prepare ourselves and our communities for Christ's coming. Equip us now to worship you with all the saints, past and present, nearby and far away. Amen.

**Opening Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH#203

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Betsy & Mike Murray,
Emily, Gretchen, Luisa & Johannes Zerling

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH#196

Prayers of the Faithful & the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

Thank you, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some faint with fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson Luke 1: 11-20

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir
"A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us" Price/Besig

Sermon Pastor Andy Wagner
"The Angels of Christmas: Gabriel to Zechariah"

**Closing Hymn "People, Look East" UMH #202

Sending Forth

Choral Benediction

Postlude



*The Altar Flowers are given in honor of
Pastor Andy and Lora Wagner's Wedding Anniversary.*

Gospel Lesson – Luke 1: 11-20

¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign our attendance register located in each pew. We welcome you and hope you will come back and worship with us again soon.



FAITH
Community

Sharing Faith, Building Community

Rev. Andy Wagner

(937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorandy@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

November 27, 2022

Worship Team

Ushers	Doug Wickline, Paul Pinkerton, Brant Wickline, Bill Turner
Greeters	Bob Whipp, Pam Whipp
Acolytes	Alaina Skaggs, Catherine Mossing
Liturgist	Chad Mossing
Guest Organist	Jim McPeek
Choir Director	Glen Shaw
Bells Director	Jim McPeek



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Monday 28	Cub Scouts	6:30 pm	FH 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15 C
Tuesday 29	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Magic Volleyball Practice	5:30 pm	FCC
	Private Event	6:00 pm	FH 15 C
Wednesday 30	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
Thursday 1	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Woman's Club of Xenia	1:30 pm	Parlor
Friday 2	Private Event	9:00 am	FH 15 A-C
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 3	Private Event	9:00 am	FH 15 A-C
	Private Event	12:00 pm	FCC, Kitchen
Sunday 4	Sunday School	9:15 am	Parlor, 11, 15C, Edge
	Christmas Cookie Sale	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary
	Blue Christmas Service	2:30 pm	Sanctuary

Sunday School Studies

Double I meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of "It's A Wonderful Life."

Open Doors meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study of "The Top 10 Hymns (and How They Were Inspired) by Alice William.

Grades 6-12 will meet in Rm 16 A-B, Leader Joyce Smith.

Preschool – Grade 5 Join the children in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mossier for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

Next Sermon – Sunday, December 4

"The Angels of Christmas: Gabriel to Mary" Pastor Andy Wagner
Gospel Lesson Luke 1: 26-38

November 20, 2022 Announcements

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS TREE: We will again be sharing Christmas joy with the children at St. Paul's after school program. The children will be able to visit a special shop to choose gifts to give to their families on Christmas. Please consider spreading God's love by choosing an ornament from the tree in the Narthex and selecting a small gift (\$5-\$10) and returning gifts unwrapped by **Sunday, Dec. 4.**

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE: WHEN: **Sunday, Dec. 4 10:00am - 12:00pm,** WHERE: Faith Community Narthex, WHY: To raise funds to purchase holiday craft supplies for the children in Xenia area shelters. Each plate or container will be sold for \$5.00. You can help by baking your *favorite holiday cookies!* Please have them attractively plated, packaged in tins, or any festive packaging. We will have labels available for you to list the name of cookie and if they contain any nuts or nut products; such as peanut butter, or if they are Gluten Free or Sugar Free. Contact Betsy Murray (937) 372-8376 with questions.

COOKIES NEEDED: If you're already baking for the Christmas Cookie Sale, please consider baking a few more. Refreshments will be served following our Blue Christmas service **Sunday, Dec. 4th** and any cookie contributions will be greatly appreciated. Contact Judy Mahan 937-372-5711 if you are able to help us out.

HOPE OFFERED: While Advent is often a time of joy and light, for some this year everything is different. Grief to some degree has come to everyone's home. It has been difficult for most of us. Many can relate to the feelings of loss because everyone has seen our version of normalcy change. We are surrounded by loneliness, grief, fear, and sickness. We are all trying to figure it out. Join us for our Blue Christmas service on **Sunday, Dec. 4th.** There will be harp music starting at **2:15pm** and the service will begin at **2:30** followed by a time of fellowship. As we search for comfort, hope, and ultimately the peace that the love of God imparts, we remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine.

GET YOUR POINSETTIAS ORDER IN EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS: It is time to order your Poinsettias for the Christmas services. The flowers truly beautify the church for all the worshippers. The order forms will be in the Narthex this week. Please place order form and payment in the offering plate or return to the church office by **Sunday, Dec. 11.** Please indicate how many plants and if you want Red, White, or Pink. The cost per plant is \$10. Make checks payable to Faith Community UMC, mark your check "Poinsettia", in the memo and/or on your envelope. We need to have this form and payment to record your order.

COMMUNITY CONCERT: The Community Christmas Concert Band will present its annual concert on **Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3:00pm** in the Sanctuary. Both sacred and secular music will be performed. The program will be offered at no charge, but donations for the purchase of new music will be accepted. Please join us in this celebration of our Saviors birth.

FAMILY NIGHT AT FAITH COMMUNITY: Please join us on **Sunday, Dec. 11 at 5:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall for our quarterly family night. We will share a meal of soup and Sloppy Joes. There will be good fellowship, singing of Christmas Carols, trivia, crafts and decorating sugar cookies.

SIGN UP FOR 2023 ALTAR FLOWERS: The flower calendar for 2023 is on the table in the narthex. Your gift of Altar flowers enhances the worship service and reflects the beauty of God's World. If you sign up for flowers we can order them or you can order them from your favorite florist. You will receive a reminder call prior to the date. If you have any questions please call the office or Joyce Smith (937) 372-6576 or Betsy Murray (937) 372-8376.

OFFERING ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE: Your 2023 box of weekly giving envelopes can be picked up in the narthex after church services or during regular office hours during the week.



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Week 1 – The Candle of Hope

Reader One: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1)

Reader Two: We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kingdom to come.

Reader One: "Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in Gods paths'" (Isaiah 2:3).

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.



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